

REMARKS

Claim 19 was objected to because applicant recited "the center section" and "both wing sections" in part (c) as if it is assumed the structure would have to have these features. This has been remedied in a currently amended claim 19 which includes a clarification: comprising a center section and at least three wing sections.

Claims 1-3, 11-13, and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hornung (U.S. 3,791,673). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The office action suggests that Hornung's "rear conduit members" (98, 104 see Figs. 1 and 3) represent "outer wing sections." These rear conduit members are actually braces for the actual outer wings (54, 56) and, thus, do not accomplish the intended purpose of the instant invention. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are currently amended to specify that the inner ends of the outer wing sections couple with the outer ends of the inner wing sections. Claim 19 is currently amended to specify that the wing sections lie substantially linearly from the ends of the center section to their outer ends. These amendments are supported by Figs. 2-8 and their descriptions. It is expected these amendments will make all the independent claims allowable. Because dependent claims 2-10 and 23 depend on claim 1, claims 12-18 depend on claim 11, and claims 20-22 depend on claim 19, it is expected these claims are now also allowable.

Accordingly, because all remaining claims 1-23 are believed to be clearly allowable, a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaughn L. Bauer

Date July 27, 2004

By: Michael O. Sturm
Michael O. Sturm
Reg. No. 26,078

STURM & FIX LLP
206 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1213
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4076
Phone: 515-288-9589
Fax: 515-288-4860